

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 05687 190946Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 FS-01 ABF-01

OPR-02 A-01 IGA-01 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 /071 W

----- 034729

P R 190908Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5299

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5687

DEPT. ALSO PASS AID

BANGKOK ALSO FOR FADPC - CHIN, USDO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, PFOR, LA, US

SUBJ: EFFORTS TO UNBLOCK EMBASSY KIP ACCOUNT AT
NATIONAL BANK

REF: VIENTIANE 5673, 5633, AND PREVIOUS

1. UNABLE TO CONTACT ANYONE IN FOREIGN OFFICE WHOSE
MEMBERS WERE IN LPF SEMINAR ALL AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 18.
I CORNERED SOUKTHAVONE KEOLA (SON OF OLD PATHET LAO
KHAMSOUK KEOLA), ATTACHE IN FOREIGN MINISTER'S
OFFICE, AT UNHCR PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN'S RECEPTION
IN HOPE OF PASSING WORD INDIRECTLY THAT WE WERE UNHAPPY
AND NEEDED CLARIFICATION OF NATIONAL BANK'S ACTION
IN DENYING US ACCESS TO OUR KIP ACCOUNT. THIS
EFFORT APPARENTLY ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING. KEOLA SAID
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"LA JUSTICE" MUST TAKE ITS COURSE AND I SUGGESTED THIS

HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH A FOREIGN EMBASSY'S BANK ACCOUNT.

2. AT 1130 MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 19, I FINALLY GOT TO SEE DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, CHANSAMONE VONGSAPHAY. I POINTED OUT THAT FREEZING A FOREIGN EMBASSY'S BANK ACCOUNT WAS A PRETTY SERIOUS ACT SUGGESTING THAT SOME DESPERATELY SERIOUS SITUATION HAD ARISEN. I COULD NOT IMAGINE WHAT THIS MIGHT BE BUT I HAD TO REPORT TO MY GOVERNMENT SOONEST WHY SUCH A MEASURE HAD BEEN TAKEN AND WHEN IT WAS GOING TO BE TERMINATED. CHANSAMONE PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF THE WHOLE THING BUT SAID HE WOULD CONTACT THE FAMOUS CADRE OUDONE IN CHARGE OF THE BANK AND TELEPHONE ME LATER. HE CALLED AT ABOUT 1230 TO EXPLAIN THAT THE MEASURE HAD BEEN INVOKED IN CONNECTION WITH AN INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSETS OF THE EMIGRES CONVICTED OF TREASON AND WOULD END SEPTEMBER 19 WITH THE BANK READY FOR NORMAL BUSINESS WITH THE EMBASSY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22.

3. CHANSAMONE SUGGESTED WE SEND AN EMPLOYEE TO THE BANK MONDAY MORNING AND LET HIM KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF WE HAD ANY DIFFICULTY. WE SHALL FOLLOW HIS ADVICE MONDAY MORNING AND REPORT RESULTS TO DEPARTMENT. CORCORAN

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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